



IDEAS  
2018  
PAKISTAN  
ARMS FOR PEACE



POST CONFERENCE **REPORT**

# PAKISTAN ARMY CONFERENCE

**“IN PURSUIT OF PEACE”**

PAKISTAN ARMED FORCES CONTRIBUTIONS IN BRINGING  
PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE COUNTRY AND REGION



**28<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2018**

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# Foreword



Taking cognizance of the modern world trends such as renunciation of war, peaceful settlement of disputes and economic development, Pakistan has always played a positive role in regional stability and peace. As regards the sacrifices rendered by the people of Pakistan and Armed Forces, during the Global War on Terror, the idea of regional stability and peace cannot be better understood other than Pakistan which has faced huge losses in political, social, economic and military terms. In this regard, several personnel of its Armed Forces were martyred; while the country has borne the brunt of unimaginable collateral damage, instability, perennial acts of subversion, sectarian violence and civilian casualties.

After facing the direct brunt of war, there is a realization amongst the policymakers that the war cannot be fought with hard power alone. The armed forces, in addition to operation 'Rad-ul-Fasad', are therefore now actively engaged in a strategy of nation building using de-radicalization programs, educational reforms, medical assistance and disaster management as measures to achieve long-term results. At present, the armed forces have undertaken multifaceted development works in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas in order to mainstream the tribes. As a resilient and responsible nation, Pakistan is struggling to build regional peace and security and for this it is ready to work closely and intimately with the international community.

**Lieutenant General Majid Ehsan, HI (M)**  
**President NDU**

# Preface



Weak border security, trans-national terrorism, refugees and poverty have plagued the region for decades now. The onslaught of hybrid war on the country and region has created confusion and enhanced the feeling of insecurity. Externally, Pakistan faces security threats which include; Indian atrocities in Kashmir and its hegemonic designs that have pushed the region in an arms race, an unstable Afghanistan, the Kashmir dispute and Line of Control escalations. Pakistan has already taken measures to strengthen Pakistan-Afghan border management, register refugees and facilitate the Afghan reconciliation process, thus reiterating Pakistan's commitment for enduring peace.

The nation and security forces have sacrificed in blood and money in the fight against terrorism. Pakistan's political stability and improved security situation due to operation Zarb-e-Azab and Rad-ul-Fasad have yielded results that have a lasting impact on national and regional security. There is now an 89% decrease in terrorist attacks.

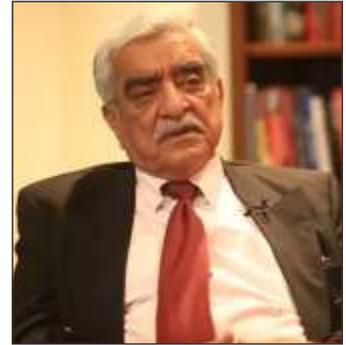
It is now the responsibility of the global and regional players to unite with Pakistan in its fight against terrorism. CPEC provides a golden opportunity for regional connectivity, economic development and deeper alliance. It is therefore time to join hands and push for peace for which there's a need for all neighboring states to normalize relations for lasting regional harmony and cooperation.

**Major General Samrez Salik HI (M)**  
**DG ISSRA**

# OVERVIEW OF SPEAKERS

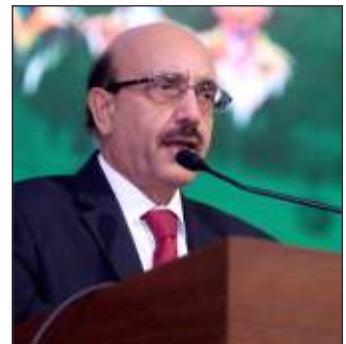
## Ambassador Najmuddin A. Shaikh

Ambassador Najmuddin A. Shaikh was born in 1939 in Hyderabad Sindh. He did his B.Com from the Sindh University and M.A. from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. Mr. Shaikh joined the Foreign Service of Pakistan in 1961. He has served as Ambassador to USA, Germany, Canada and Iran before becoming Foreign Secretary from 1994 to 1997. After retiring in 1999, he served thereafter as the President's special envoy to Central Asia, Africa, Far East and Russia. He has also served as the chancellor Institute of Business Management, a Karachi based University from 2015 to 2017. Currently he heads the Global and Regional Studies Centre, a think tank set up in the Institute of Business Management. He now attends Track II meetings, writes for local and foreign media and is a frequent commentator on foreign and local audio-visual media.



## Mr. Sardar Masood Khan, President Azad Jammu & Kashmir

Sardar Masood Khan is currently serving as the 27th President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, a position he assumed on 25th August 2016. Prior to getting elected as the President of AJK, Sardar Masood Khan had a long diplomatic career with the Foreign Service of Pakistan. Most notably, he served as the Spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2003 to 2005. He has been Pakistan's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations and other International Organisations. In his earlier diplomatic career, he held important diplomatic positions in China, The Netherlands, United Nations (New York) and the USA (Washington D.C). Sardar Masood Khan also remained Pakistan's Chief Negotiator at the Nuclear Security Summit from 2009 to 2015. In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he has served as Director General United Nations, Director General Nuclear Disarmament, Director General Organization of Islamic Cooperation and Director General East Asia and Pacific. Earlier, he was Director Secretary General's Office and Director International Conferences. His areas of specialization include: nuclear diplomacy, Kashmir, South Asia, Pak-China relations, Pak-US relations, e-governance, multilateral diplomacy and international humanitarian law, among others.



## Ambassador Riaz Khokhar

Ambassador Riaz Khokhar has served as Pakistan's Foreign Secretary from 2002 to 2005. As a career diplomat, he has been Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, Mongolia, United States, Jamaica, Bangladesh and Bhutan. He has also served as Pakistan's High Commissioner to India from 1992 to 1997. He has previously served as a foreign policy and defence aide to Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Mustafa Jatoi, Benazir Bhutto and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Ambassador Riaz Khokhar has also served as a diplomat in Moscow, Stockholm, Lisbon and New Delhi.



## Lt Gen Khalid Rabbani (Retd) HI (M)

Lieutenant General Khalid Rabbani, HI (M) was commissioned in Infantry (Punjab Regiment) on 14th October 1977. He has varied experience of command, staff and instructional assignments. He is a graduate of Command and Staff College Quetta, Higher Military Academy Syria and National Defence College Islamabad. He has been on the faculty of Pakistan Military Academy Kakul, School of Infantry and Tactics Quetta and Command and Staff College Quetta. Besides commanding an operationally deployed division on the eastern Line of Control, his command assignments are mostly in Low Intensity Conflict zone in Federally Administrated Tribal Area (FATA). Besides commanding an infantry battalion, he has led an infantry brigade in Mohmand Agency (FATA) and as Commander of an infantry division operated in Shangla and Swat Districts in anti-Terrorist Operations. He also commanded another infantry division employed in FATA and carried out active operations in Kurram Agency, Hangu District and Dara Adam Khel besides leading Operation Rah-e-Nijaat in South Waziristan Agency. He has also the distinction of being Commandant of Command and Staff College Quetta. His last assignment was the commander of coveted 11 Corps Peshawar where he spearheaded the campaign against terrorism in KPK & FATA. He also has the privilege and honor of successfully planning, executing and leading Operation Zarb-e-Azab in North Waziristan Agency. He completed his coloured service and retired from active duty on 2nd October 2014. Post retirement he has been Managing Director, Army Welfare Trust till 15 Jan 2018. Presently he is leading a retired life.



## Ambassador Abdul Basit

Ambassador Abdul Basit is a retired Pakistani diplomat who served as the former high commissioner of Pakistan to India. He was appointed to this position in 2014. Previously, he served as Pakistan's ambassador to Germany from May 2012 to March 2014. Mr. Basit holds a Masters in international relations from Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad and joined the Foreign Service of Pakistan in 1982. During his career, he has been posted at Moscow, New York, Sana'a, Geneva and London. He has held various diplomatic assignments at Pakistan Missions abroad which include; Moscow (1985-1988), New York (1991-1994), Sana (1994-1997), Geneva (2001-2003) and London (September 2003-August 2008). He has also been the spokesman for foreign office from the year (2009-2012) and has also been the Additional Secretary Europe from (2010-2012). Apart from delivering lectures on the topic of Pak-India relations, he also hosts TV talk shows on various topics of International Relations.







## Executive Summary

- ✦ Pakistan has been able to maintain a semblance of stability despite daunting challenges. If there was another country in place of Pakistan, it would have collapsed long ago.
- ✦ The phases of stability and instability that we see in Pakistan are cycles of national evolution. Pakistan is therefore not an inherently unstable country but a resilient state.
- ✦ Factors for social instability in Pakistan include the predominant role of the feudal elites in the country's politics, the huge income disparities, rapid urbanization and poor investments in governance.
- ✦ There's no doubt that the external and internal situation of any country is closely intertwined and peace and stability are vital to a country's national development.
- ✦ The region is not unstable because of Pakistan but it is the other way around. The volatility of the region and the strategic overcast from beyond the region has affected Pakistan adversely and caused turbulence.
- ✦ On the Eastern front, Pakistan faces a neighbor that refuses to engage with us in dialogue. India in fact uses dialogue to undermine the country's principled position on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir. The Indians look at themselves as a rising power with an increased economic clout. It is therefore in no way willing to work out a modus operandi with Pakistan.
- ✦ On the Western front, turmoil and instability are being used to disrupt peace in Pakistan. The Afghan national reconciliation process is being used to keep Pakistan under pressure.
- ✦ South Asia and Afghanistan are central to the interest of the regional powers which is changing the dynamics of the global order. As per strategists, peace in Afghanistan will lead to peace in Pakistan and South Asia. Even though, the peace talks between the USA and the Afghan Taliban are marked by conflict of interest, they are in fact a promise of a better future.



- ✦ The rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan and 9/11 were water shed moments which affected the region adversely. Weapons, drugs and violence became rampant and destroyed the very fabric of our society.
- ✦ The terrorists have not been entirely pushed out and their activities are still a threat to the national security. Hybrid war, due to its complexity, poses a more severe threat to the security of the country as well as to the global order.
- ✦ From 2001 to 2008, there were selective operations in the country. The armed forces resisted an all-out operation and preferred talks to solve matters.
- ✦ When things began to deteriorate 2013 onwards, the army opted for operations such as Rahe-Haq, Rahe-Rast and Rahe-Najat, which not only delivered results but also paved way for large scale operations, namely; Zarb-e-Azab and Radul-Fasad.
- ✦ In addition to these operations, Pakistan army also carried out development work in order to mainstream the region. A total of 769 projects worth \$ 709 million have been completed so far.
- ✦ Keeping the developmental work aside, the high point of success has been the unity between the civil and armed forces of the country with the whole nation united to fight terrorism.
- ✦ Pakistan army has not only worked towards achieving national harmony but has also made strides in achieving international peace. It has remained as one of the largest troop providers to UN. As of now, it is the 5th largest troop provider with over 5500 troops deployed in various parts of the world.
- ✦ The regional environment will continue to be volatile and unpredictable. There will be challenges and the country may not truly realize its true national potential. However, as long as the nation remains united, Pakistan shall witness growth, cohesion, peace and stability



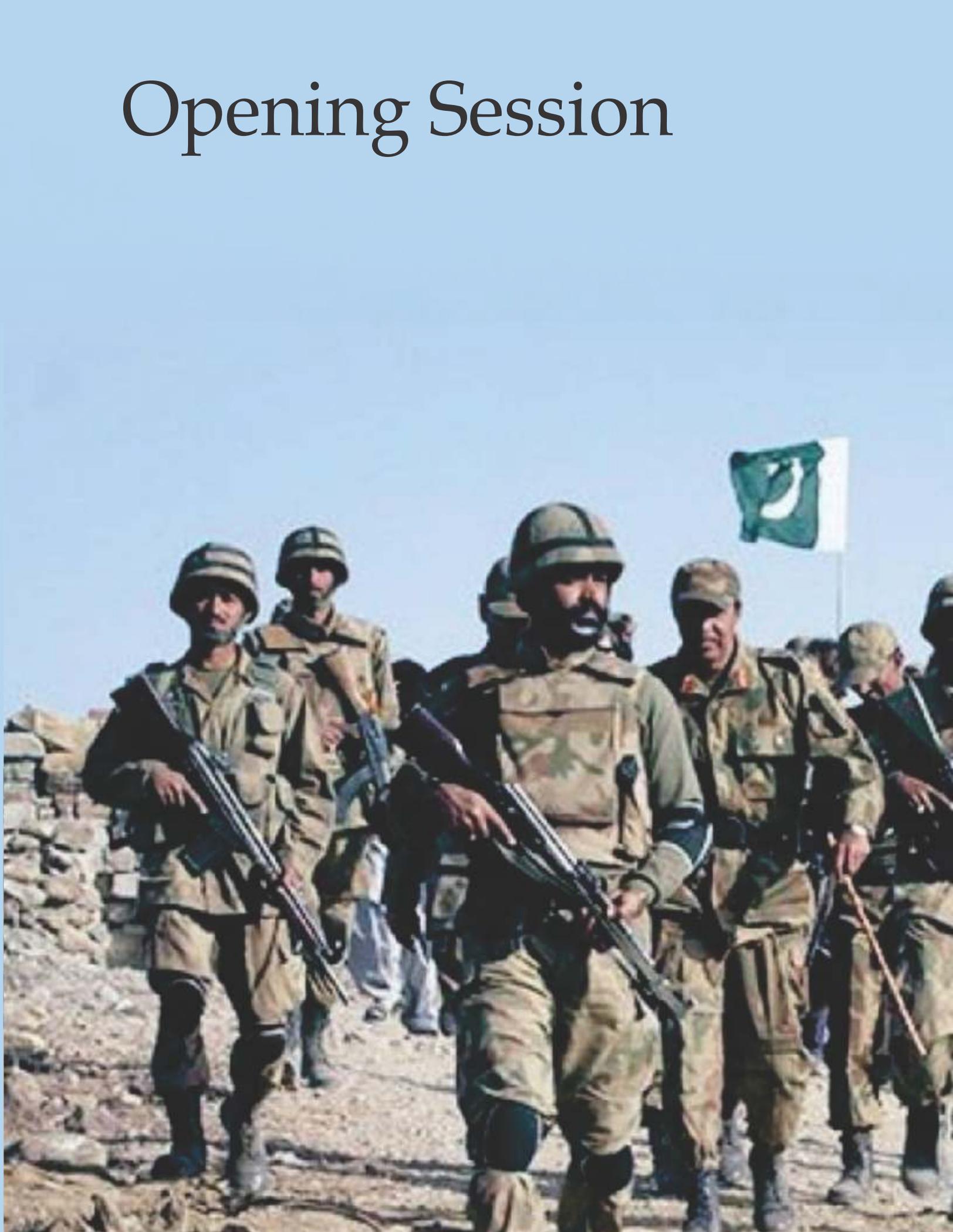
## Findings and Recommendations

- ✦ Post Afghan war and during the war on terror, there was a need for simultaneous exercise of disarmament, demobilization, de-radicalization, and reintegration
- ✦ India sustains proxy wars to punish Pakistan for its stance and endeavors on Kashmir. Kashmir is thus a major source of instability in the region. It also provides justifications to both sides for an arms race and modernization of their strategic and conventional military machines.
- ✦ The Indian moves to push the region into an arms race are dangerous trends. Under such a scenario, it seems unlikely that India would want to resolve its issues with Pakistan. Both countries can have a renewed dialogue process but the real question is if the core issues at hand are being addressed.
- ✦ In near future both countries can learn to curtail escalation through minimum bilateral diplomacy.



- ✦ Conflict will continue in Afghanistan and prospects for peace will remain eluded for years despite well-meaning diplomatic initiatives.
- ✦ The Afghan refugees are often used by miscreants for recruitment, terrorism and creating chaos in the country. For enduring peace it is important to solve the refugee problem at the earliest.
- ✦ Pakistan needs to maintain and refine its strategic and conventional defence capabilities.
- ✦ The state should forge partnerships with the private sector and the media to fight radicalization. It has become imperative for Pakistan's leadership to put people at the centre of decision making and work for the welfare of its people, redress their grievances and address the looming threat of climate change.

# Opening Session





## Lt Gen Majid Ehsan HI (M), President NDU



President National Defence University, Majid Ehsan HI (M) welcomed the audience to the Pakistan Army Conference titled, "In Pursuit of Peace". He began the speech by highlighting the importance of the subject. He mentioned that the conference is an initiative by the armed forces to appraise the world of Pakistan's success story in the fight against terrorism. While welcoming the guests, President NDU emphasized on how defense exhibitions focus more on the sale and purchase of weapons, whereas Pakistan Army Conference is a perfect blend of an academic and practical strategy, which is the need of the hour. He emphasized on the following aspects:-

After facing protracted violence for almost two decades, Pakistan has achieved progressive and significant improvement in the country's overall security landscape in recent years. The change in the country's security situation is a direct result of successfully conducted operations; Zarb-e-Azab and Rad-ul-Fasad.

Terrorism that struck the region

included not only violence, destruction, suicide attacks and killings of innocent people but also encompassed political instability, low foreign direct investment, and decreased economic growth. These factors created a chaotic and unstable regional environment.

Pakistan has been fighting the war on terror since September 2001. The country has faced the brunt of the war, both in terms of human and economic losses. As per latest figures, more than 63,000 people have lost their lives whereas the direct and indirect economic losses to the country have been around \$126 billion.

In view of the deteriorating national and regional security situation, the Pakistan army took the initiative to launch operation Zarb-e-Azb and Rad-ul-Fasad to uproot terrorists of all hues and colour and dismantle sanctuaries of terrorist's networks without discrimination from its soil. The success of the operations can be gauged by figures, according to which the number of terror related incidents in the country immediately fell down by almost 40-45% after the inception of Zarb-e-Azb. As per latest reports, the number of terrorist related fatalities were at their peak in 2009 and have decreased by over 89% as of last year. A report published by the Institute for Economics and Peace sums up the success of the operations in the following words,

"Pakistan was the only country in the

ten most impacted countries that saw a decline in deaths and the reduction in deaths from terrorism. This is in part attributable to Operation *Zarb-e-Azb* by the Pakistani Army, a military effort which started in mid-2014.”

The second most successful operation, Radd-ul-Fasad, that started in 2017, focused upon the elimination of mischief from the country's territory. To eliminate all residual threats of terrorism, operation Rad-ul-Fasad took help of all wings of armed forces, paramilitary organizations, civilian law enforcement agencies and intelligence agencies. It is hedged on four pillars, namely: operation in Punjab by Rangers; continuation of operations all over the country; border management and de-weaponization and explosive control.

Under the operation, more than 40,000 intelligence-based operations (IBOs) have been conducted while more than 700 joint check-posts have been established in coordination with the police. In addition,

more than 13,000 weapons have been recovered. The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), Rangers and the Police have been conducting operations against banned outfits. Because of the on-going operations, more than 3,500 TTP members have been killed while others have fled to neighbouring countries.

The army's efforts to eradicate terrorism from its soil did not stop at the hard power approach alone. Keeping in view the inability of its neighbours to curb transnational terrorism, Pakistan army is now fencing and fortifying the entire length of its Western border. In addition, the military has also been assisting in civil administrative matters of the tribal agencies. The focus has been to rehabilitate the social sector, especially healthcare and education, with the sole aim of empowering the locals. In order to bring back normalcy to the locals, the army also organized a cricket match in Miranshah's Younus Khan Stadium in cooperation with PCB and PSL's franchise



Peshawar Zalmi. This normalcy to the region has come at the cost of the lives of almost 6940 security personnel, a hefty price indeed. Not only in FATA but also in the other parts of the country, such as Karachi, the operation launched by Rangers has brought a halt to years of bloodshed stemming from sectarian, ethnic and political fissures.

It is because of the efforts of the military that today; insurgency in Balochistan is on a decline. The armed forces have not only been able to bring peace to the country but have also contributed tremendously to regional peace and stability through active diplomacy, undeterred moral support and material assistance to its allies.

Pakistan's ranking as one of the largest troop contributing country in the world in

the United Nations along with one of the highest peacekeepers' casualty figure is a reflection of the country's unwavering commitment in promoting regional and global peace.

In addition, the military has been frequently conducting joint exercises, holding competitions and has exchange programs only to help improve the ability of itself and its allies to deal with multiple security threats and jointly maintain regional peace and stability. In the words of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, "With faith, discipline and selfless devotion to duty, there is nothing worthwhile that you cannot achieve." Therefore, with the support of the nation and unflinching resolve of the armed forces, Pakistan shall and will always continue to prosper.



# Session 1





Ambassador Najmuddin A. Shaikh chaired the session titled, "In Pursuit of Peace". The panel of four made four speeches/presentations on Genesis of Instability in the Country and the Region, Future Dynamics of Regional Security in Changing Global Order, Pakistan Armed Forces Role in War on Terror and Contribu-

tions in International Peace Keeping through UN; Making World a Safer Place and Towards National Development, Regional Stability and Enduring Peace. The speeches were followed by an interactive session where the floor was opened for the audience to raise questions.

## Opening Remarks by Ambassador Najmuddin A. Shaikh

Ambassador Najmuddin A. Shaikh opened the session by highlighting how Pakistan Army Conference is being held at an interesting time where the current government is striving towards establishing better relations with its neighbours. The losses Pakistan has suffered in the war against extremism and terrorism finds its roots coming from the US invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 and the period before. The recent attack on the Chinese consulate in Karachi, even though successfully aborted, brought to mind that there are elements within the country supported by

powers outside the country which are trying to create a new wave of terrorism. The terrorist incident in Hangu that happened at the same time was an indicator of the battle that lies ahead of us. The success Pakistan has achieved in the fight against terrorism is a reflection of the fact that the country's law enforcement agencies and the military, put together, are prepared to deal with both; present and future challenges.



With relation to India, the chair emphasized that the inauguration of the route for Sikh pilgrims has set a remarkable path which is solely based on the emotions of people. The border opening reflects a relation based on mutual love and respect. The Prime Minister of Pakistan has shown his willingness to

make contributions to bring peace beyond borders, especially Afghanistan by working closely with all the stakeholders in the peace process. Endurable peace in Afghanistan and the region is critical for peace in Pakistan.

## Genesis of Instability in the Country and the Region by Sardar Masood Khan, President AJK



Pakistan has been able to maintain a semblance of stability despite daunting challenges. If there was another country in the place of Pakistan, it would have collapsed long ago. The survival of Pakistan has been possible because of its institutions that have developed over decades. The phases of stability and instability that we see in Pakistan are cycles of national evolution. Pakistan is therefore not an inherently unstable country but a resilient state. It needs to be borne in view that the region is not unstable because of Pakistan but it is the other way around. The volatility of the region and the strategic overcast from beyond the region has affected Pakistan adversely and caused turbulence. Pakistan's

fateful choices to become part of strategic alliances in 1950s against communism, in 1980s against the Soviet presence in Afghanistan, and in early 2000s in the war on terror have been a source of both security and insecurity.

The cold war started the culture of financial backing to Pakistan in the name of a front line state making it dependent on Western assistance. In the war against terror, the assistance given to Pakistan was minimal and in the form of military and economic aid vis-à-vis the international financial institutions. The United States under-priced Pakistan's logistic support and treated compensations for Pakistan's services as assistance. The miss match of expectations led to misadventures and disasters. The United States and its allies never promised the country military or political support against India, despite strong presumptions of such entitlement on Pakistan's side.

According to the famous sociologist, Max Weber, the state has the monopoly of



the legitimate use of violence within a given territory and all other uses of force by individuals or groups are derived from the states' authority. But in Pakistan, many individuals and groups have abused this right. The state must fully reclaim its authority. For instance, in an Islamic State the Fatwa for Jihaad and blasphemy must rest with the qualified designated state bodies or personnel and it should not be free for all to exercise. The Fatwa should be based on consensus of opinion. Unfortunately, we as a nation have not systematically or effectively invested in discourses to reduce communal divides that lead to violence.

Post Afghan war and during the war on terror, there was a need for simultaneous exercises of disarmament, demobilization, de-radicalization, and reintegration. Other contributing factors for social instability include the predominant role of the feudal elites in the country's politics. The huge income disparities, rapid urbanization and the changing ethno-sectarian fabric of mega cities have generated new social tensions and urban warfare. Poor investments in governance have fuelled popular anger and

deepened alienation. The country has not sufficiently built its capacity to uproot extremism. The current state of failing economy is self-inflicted that has denied the country the potential to become an economic power.

The rise of extremism in FATA in particular and in Pakistan in general can be traced back to religious politics and the start of the Afghan Jihad in the same period. Use of FATA as a training ground and a launching pad for anti-Soviet operations, the fall out effects of Saudi-Iranian rivalry following Iranian revolution, abject poverty, poor infrastructure and absence of the writ of the state, made the situation in FATA deteriorate. FATA reforms and the infrastructural projects supported by the armed forces are addressing these causes of instability in the region.

India has unleashed three wars in the region. The first war is being fought by the 700,000 Indian occupation troops against the unarmed people of Kashmir, in which 100,000 Kashmiris have been killed since 1989. The second war waged by India is in the form of violations of the Line of Control

(LOC) and the Working Boundary mainly targeting civilians. The third war is the proxy war in Balochistan, FATA and Pakistan's urban centres, as well as penetration of Indian operatives into religious places, political entities and civil society.

The last category may also be called hybrid warfare. India sustains these proxy wars to punish Pakistan for its stance and endeavours on Kashmir. Kashmir is thus a major source of instability in the region. It is also partly responsible for the nuclearization of South Asia. It also provides justifications to both sides for an arms race and modernization of their strategic and conventional military machines. Even if, hypothetically speaking, the issue of Kashmir is resolved today, instability will continue in the region because of the nuclear capability of India and Pakistan, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and the Belt and Road Initiative.

Despite the political turmoil that characterizes Pakistan's polity since 2008, the country has completed two electoral cycles and two transitions of the democratic governments. This trend needs to be

strengthened and sustained. In the region, the clouds of the dramatic 1947 partition that led to mass migration of some 17 million people across borders and 1 million deaths continue to cast their shadow over the strategic landscape. The rise of Hindu extremism in India is a major destabilizing factor as the memories of partition are now being translated into their revisionists' agenda for the region.

Strategic competition between the two nations is an existential reality. There can be no fully operational diplomatic ties between the two countries in near future but both can learn to curtail escalation through minimum bilateral diplomacy. In this regard India has to show more responsibility. Conflict will continue in Afghanistan and prospects for peace will remain eluded for years despite well-meaning diplomatic initiatives. In the immediate neighbourhood, competition between the United States and China and between India and China will stiffen. Pakistan will have to face the fallout of this growing phenomenon. The CPEC has opened a huge window of opportunity for Pakistan which propels us



to work for internal stability and rapid economic growth. Moreover, using the project as a catalyst Pakistan can explore its own corridors to East, around the Gulf Region, to Central Asia and Europe via Iran and Turkey.

Pakistan needs to maintain and refine its strategic and conventional defence capabilities. The state should forge partnerships with the private sector and the media to fight radicalization. It has become imperative for Pakistan's leadership to put people at the centre of decision making and work for the welfare of its people, redress their grievances and address the looming threat

## Future Dynamics of Regional Security in Changing Global Order by Ambassador Riaz Khokhar



Army has conducted brilliant military operations against terrorists. However, the struggle against terrorism has not ended, though the backbone of terrorists has been broken. The terrorists have not been entirely pushed out and their activities are still a threat to the national security. Hybrid war, due to its complexity, poses a more severe threat to the security of the country as well as to the global order.

of Climate Change.

To succeed, Pakistan should be on the right side of history, and must translate its aspirations to reality. It continues to be a pivotal state; its stability and prosperity will have a domino effect on the region.

Pakistan has come a long way and still has a long way to go. The nation needs to get united to overcome problems, turn around its fortunes and make Pakistan one of the top ten countries of the world. Let this resolve, reverberate schools, market places and political rallies and let the nation take its destiny in its own hands because only Pakistanis can salvage Pakistan.

One cannot talk about global order and its impact on the region without discussing Pakistan's domestic security situation as it indirectly impacts the regional security. Therefore, there is a deep relationship between a country's foreign and domestic policy, which in fact is an ever evolving process.

Pakistan's domestic front is marked by severe economic crisis and instability. Our internal problems are complex and not very easily resolvable. The country still has to fight extremism, faces a bursting population, a looming water crisis coupled with other social issues.

The global world order is rapidly evolving. USA has enjoyed the status of a sole hegemon for decades and it will not be

willing to give up its status of a superpower easily. Therefore, China, which is an emerging super power, tops the list of threats USA faces. Keeping this in view, USA has been developing strategies to beat China's growing supremacy in the South China Sea and Pacific Ocean. Thus, the New Cold War is now between USA and China where Asia Pacific has become the centre stage for the supremacy of the global powers.

South Asia and Afghanistan are central to the interest of the regional powers which is changing the dynamics of the global order. As per global thinkers and strategists, peace in Afghanistan will lead to peace in Pakistan and South Asia. Even though, the peace talks between the USA and the Afghan Taliban are marked by conflict of interest, they are in fact a promise of a better future. Pakistan has been doing a lot to attain peace and the current round of peace talks is an effort in the same direction.

There is no hesitation in saying that India is our enemy, however, one must congratulate the government on opening of the Kartarpur corridor. It needs to be borne

in view that India would not have refused to the initiative as the implications would have been dire for it. In addition, India is due to have general elections and any impediment from its side would have annoyed the Sikh community, not only in India but worldwide, which the BJP cannot afford.

Another important factor in the changing global dynamics for which Pakistan must be prepared is the US-India strategic partnership. The range of agreements between US and India is bound to have serious implications for Pakistan. As far as Pakistan and the US relations are concerned, USA is a Super Power and Pakistan has no choice but to maintain amicable relations. In the current setting, there is a remote possibility of developing strategic relation between US and Pakistan.

With China, Pakistan shares an excellent relationship. However, it does not mean that we take things for granted. Pakistan should forge closer ties with Russia, China, Turkey and Iran. While doing so we as a nation, should hope for the best and be prepared for the worst.



# Pakistan Armed Forces Role in War on Terror and Contributions in International Peace Keeping through UN; Making World a Safer Place by Lt Gen Khalid Rabbani HI (M)



Pakistan has been fighting the war on terror for decades. There is absolutely no doubt that winning is the only option for Pakistan. For the last two decades Pakistan has been the front line state in the global war against terror and violent extremism. Pakistan got embroiled into the fight with the beginning of Afghan war. The rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan and 9/11 were watershed moments which affected the region adversely. Weapons, drugs and violence became rampant and destroyed the very fabric of our society. The nation's resolve to fight terrorism is unbeatable. Pakistan's efforts for the regional peace and stability have enabled the global consensus to reunite in the face of disorder. We now share the same thinking in fight against terrorism and our contributions have complimented international community's priorities.

Pakistan-Afghanistan border is marked by a rugged terrain. The highest point of the border is at Tirich Mir with a height of above

4000ft whereas the lowest point is at the Pak-Iran border with a height of 814 ft. The entire length of the border is approximately 2600 km and it runs through lofty mountains. Along the border, there are approximately 16 divided villages with a population of 52,000. Since these villages are divided between two countries, it allows for easement rights, hence, the movement of people across the border. At present, there are over 11000 posts on Pakistan's side of the border where as Afghanistan has only 274. This leads to a surveillance gap especially in the North where, for 115 km there are no Afghan troops to patrol the border. As of now, there are 2.7 million Afghan refugees



living in Pakistan. The refugees are often used by miscreants for recruitment, terrorism and creating chaos in the country.

From 2001 to 2008, there were selective operations in the country. The armed forces resisted an all-out operation and preferred talks to solve matters. Even though, certain operations did take place but the period was

marked by talks and agreements in order to achieve sustainable peace. When things began to deteriorate from 2013 onwards, the army opted for operations such as Rah-e-Haq, Rah-e-Rast and Rah-e-Najat, which not only delivered results but also paved way for large scale operations, namely; Zarb-e-Azab and Rad-ul-Fasad.

The environment pre-Zarb-e-Azb was marked by certain areas of Orakzai controlled by terrorists, whereas North Waziristan and Khyber were hot beds of miscreants. As the operation began, normalcy returned to FATA. During the operation, more than hundreds of terrorists were killed, tons of explosive material was recovered, and the training camps were destroyed and dismantled. It was after Zarb-e-Azb that terrorism in Pakistan saw a major decline. It was the result of this operation that the international cricket returned to Pakistan in 2017.

Following the success of Zarb-e-Azab, operation Rad-ul-Fasad was initiated in February, 2017 and continues till date. The aim was to ensure sustainable peace in the country and secure the results of Zarb-e-Azab. The attack on the Chinese consulate is a reminder that even though defeated, these elements are still present in the country. The

complete elimination of terrorist networks from Pakistan's soil will take time and with the nation standing behind the armed forces, success is guaranteed.

Peace in Pakistan has come at a heavy cost. The soldier-officer casualty ratio in Pakistan stands at 12:1, the highest in the world. The global casualty ratio of soldier to officer stands at 80:1, thus, for every 80 soldiers 1 officer has laid his life. In Pakistan, there have been three star General officers who have lost their life. Pakistan has incurred human loses of more than 80,000 soldiers and citizens.

In addition to these operations, Pakistan army has also conducted developmental work in order to mainstream the region. A total of 769 projects worth \$ 709 million have been carried out so far. These projects have created thousands of new jobs for the locals. With simultaneous de-radicalization efforts, nearly 4000 hard core terrorists have been de-radicalized with a 99% success rate. Certain NGOs have also stepped forward to help with the de-radicalization process and the reintegration of such individuals back into the society.

Before, there was only one Cadet College in FATA whereas today there are six with the seventh one in the pipeline. Work is





also being done in the education sector where, scores of colleges, primary, secondary, middle and high schools have been constructed for both boys and girls. Vocational training centres and health facilities have also been created through foreign direct funding. In addition, water supply schemes and communication networks have also been constructed. The road networks will facilitate trade between Afghanistan-Pakistan thus, will help normalize relations.

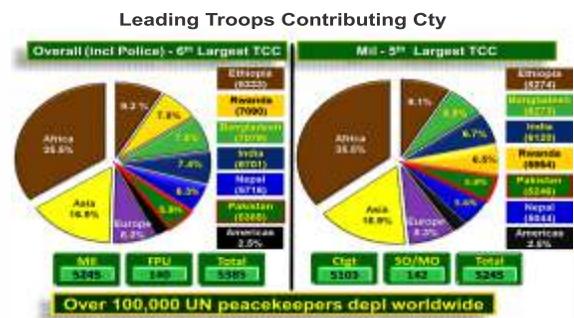
The FATA reforms have been approved by the government. The process is slow and will take time to be fully implemented. These reforms will bring FATA within the realm of Pakistan. The border management practices at the Western front have curtailed the movement of terrorists significantly. Out of the 2.7 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan, many are not registered, which needs to be done at top priority. The easement rights and the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) identity documents that have been granted to them have made cross border travel easy. However, for enduring peace it is important

to solve the refugee problem at the earliest.

About 843 border forts are to be made out of which the construction of 223 has already been completed. At the moment about 600 km of the border fence has been constructed and it is expected that in another 1 ½ year, the entire length of 2,611 km is going to be fenced.

Keeping the developmental work aside, the highest point of success has been the unity between the civil and armed forces of the country with the whole nation united to fight terrorism. The operations that have been conducted are people centric with the sole aim to bring relief to the locals.

Pakistan army has not only worked towards achieving national harmony but has also made strides in achieving international peace. It has remained as one of the largest troop providers to UN for the purpose of maintaining and ensuring peace in the troubled regions of the world. Pakistan was the largest troop provider to the UN in the year 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006. As of now, it is the 5th largest troop provider with over 5500 troops deployed in various



parts of the world. Till date, Pakistan army has deployed over 148 battalions and other supporting elements in various regions. In

28 countries a total of 46 missions have been carried out. At present, out of the 15 UN missions Pakistan is participating in 10 of them. The armed forces have sacrificed a lot for attaining national, regional and international peace. 156 Pakistani peace keepers have laid their lives in the line of duty. The establishment of Centre of International

## Towards National Development, Regional Stability and Enduring Peace by Amb Abdul Basit



There's no doubt that the external and internal situation of any country is closely intertwined, however, peace and stability are vital to a country's national development. As per our internal situation, the country is being steered into the right direction. The successfully held recent elections and the Prime Minister's resolve to build a new Pakistan marked with strong economy, good governance and no corruption are good omens.

Pakistan's new government will have to continue to pursue its national development agenda in an uncertain and volatile regional environment. Despite Pakistan's diplomatic efforts both; on the Western and the Eastern fronts, the country has not been able to achieve much. As a matter of fact, in

Peace and Stability (CIPS) at NUST aims to make the world a more peaceful place. Till now 1370 officers have graduated from the institute out of which 130 officers belong to friendly countries. The figures are a reflection of Pakistan's resolve in fighting terrorism and promoting peace in every corner of the globe.

Afghanistan, the national reconciliation is being used to keep Pakistan under pressure. The national reconciliation that is being led by the Afghan government will not be able to achieve much. This is because of Afghanistan's internal dynamics, regional power play and the rapid change in global political landscape. As CPEC is shaped, some powers will want Afghanistan to remain in turmoil so that they have enough space to undermine the project. There is hardly any hope left for Afghanistan. Even if the US decides to withdraw from Afghanistan and gives Pakistan the time to manage its dynamics, the environment is likely to become anarchic and more chaotic. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Western powers left Pakistan high and dry to deal with the war torn legacy of the Afghans. Therefore, the situation is likely to remain pessimistic since other powers are not interested in bringing peace to Afghanistan.

On the Eastern front, Pakistan faces a neighbour that refuses to engage with us in dialogue. India in fact uses dialogue to undermine the country's principled posi-

tion on the illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan needs to be careful how it deals with these two countries, especially India, because of its offensive-defensive Cold-Start doctrine. The Indian moves to push the region into an arms race are dangerous trends. Under such a scenario, it seems unlikely that India would want to resolve its issues with Pakistan. Both countries can have a renewed dialogue process but the real question is if the core issues at hand are being addressed.

The Indians look at themselves as a rising power with an increased economic clout. It is therefore, in no way willing to work out a modus operandi with Pakistan. The position of both countries on the Kashmir dispute will not allow them to come together, irrespective of the opening of the Kartarpur corridor. In the larger scheme of the things, the corridor holds no meaning.

The regional environment will continue to be volatile and unpredictable. Hence, Pakistan's efforts to inject energy into the regional cooperation might not be met with

substantial success. Pakistan however, needs to continue making diplomatic efforts in order to achieve results. The major focus should be how the country re-organizes itself internally. There will be challenges and the country may not truly realize its true national potential. However, as long as the nation remains united, Pakistan shall witness growth, cohesion, peace and stability. Today, internally, the country is stronger; the new government is stronger and determined to put Pakistan back on track. The regional environment is now conducive to pursue a national economic agenda.

The international community has a responsibility to stop the killings of innocent Kashmiris. Pakistan on the other hand needs to activate its diplomatic channels to create awareness regarding the plight of the Kashmiris. Despite the challenges, Pakistan should not give up on making efforts even if the prospects of success seem low which can be explained in the words of a Chinese strategic military thinker,

**“Opportunities multiply as they are seized”**



# Question/ Answer Session



In the interactive discussion, several issues and parameters related to regional peace and stability were raised. In response to the change in thinking needed in Pakistan to stop referring to India as a hegemon the panel suggested that there's no doubt that Pakistan has been able to maintain deterrence in war with India. However, the Indians during dialogue give an impression that Pakistan is a failed state. The Indian narrative is not based on facts and we as a nation should not worry about what the Indians think of us. Unfortunately, the entire worldview of Pakistan is misplaced and the Indians by dispelling a wrong narrative are trying to buy time to destabilize us. Therefore, while making the



country's foreign policy, these things become relevant.

In response to the query that an important neighbour, Iran, has been missed out from the presentations especially when it is in direct conflict with other Middle Eastern Countries and Kulbhushan Yadav entered Pakistan via Iran, the speakers highlighted that it is not necessary that the said person entered Pakistan's territory with the help of the Iranian government. There are reasons to believe that Iran is a close ally of Pakistan and we shall continue to have strong ties with the Iranians.

Answering a question on the presence of non-state actors in Afghanistan and state sponsored terrorism happening in Pakistan

especially by the NDS and RAW, the panel highlighted that Pakistan's army is fully equipped to deal with all emerging threats. There, unfortunately exists a communication deficit and for Pakistan to fight the war effectively, it needs to provide a strong counter narrative to the world which it has been unable to do so far.

Responding to the onslaught of hybrid warfare and the use of media houses to create pessimism in the nation the speakers mentioned that it is the basic premise on which hybrid warfare has been based. The aim is to demoralize the masses and when that happens, chaos and disharmony follow. It is important to create awareness in the masses to fight the threat more effectively.

In response to if the Indian government, especially BJP would have intentions to invest in Pakistan, the speakers highlighted that Pakistan and India are already trading partners. Despite the fact that India gave Pakistan the most favoured nation status in 1996, the imbalance of trade is in their favour and the Indians are demanding that Pakistan should extend special facilities to them. As of now, a non-discriminatory market access is being considered to be given to the Indians. However, it will take time for the policy to culminate into reality as Pakistan would first prefer to address its internal problems. The Indians however, do want access to Afghanistan and a free trade agreement.



## Closing Remarks by Ambassador Najmuddin Shaikh

The environment is volatile and there exists a constant danger that certain foreign powers will try to spoil Pakistan's relations with its neighbours. Pakistan does not want its relations with its neighbours, especially Iran to be spoiled. The armed forces are striving to have a tranquil border with its neighbours. Controlling borders is not the solution. There needs to be a cultural milieu between countries for lasting peace and stability.



# Picture Gallery















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